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NEWS BRIEFS

**Black two-parent
families on the
decline**

WASHINGTON—The Census Bureau has reported that there is a continued decline in the number of two-parent black families, while the realization of education among black people is increasing.

The latest statistical update shows that the two parent black households shrank to 46 percent last year from 68 percent in 1970. The figures in the report also show that nearly 15 percent of black people over the age of 25 have a high school education, and 18 percent have a college degree.

**Iron Mike loses
control...again**

RENTON—Mike Tyson threw himself on the mercy of the New Jersey Athletic Control Board in order to have his boxing license reinstated, but before the hearing ended he cursed in frustration.

Tyson boxing license was revoked for at least one year by the Nevada boxing officials following his heavyweight championship rematch with Evander Holyfield, where Tyson was disqualified for biting a piece of flesh of Holyfield's ear. Rather than apply for reinstatement in Nevada, he came to New Jersey and applied for a license on July 10, the first day of his eligibility. State Senate Minority Leader urged the board to deny Tyson a New Jersey license, saying, "It is clear that Mr. Tyson continues to consider himself to be above all normal codes of sportsmanship and decency."

**Clarence Thomas meets
his critics
head on**

MEMPHIS—Declaring his independence from other prominent blacks, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas told critics at the National Bar Association's convention that he intends to continue opposing affirmative action and hold fast to other conservative views.

"I make no apologies...nor do I intend to do so in the future. The only black on the nation's highest court, he often speaks on college campuses and other places outside Washington with an inspirational, up-from-the-bootstraps message. Never before has he tried to take on his critics so fully."

**Phone merger
between Bell
Atlantic and GTE**

NEW YORK—Bell Atlantic and GTE announced a merger to create the second largest telephone company in the world. As a result of the merger, the new company would control more than one-third of the U.S. local phone market and operate in 41 states while offering Internet access, wireless and long distance service. There are plans to invest billions of dollars to upgrade their networks using the latest technology.

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Shootings stir calm at Capitol Hill

By Connie Cass
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Panicked tourists rushed for cover under a stairway, in bathrooms, behind pillars. Police, guns drawn, pushed others to the floor. A mother screamed for her child as people ran by.

"There was a guy just running, just shooting at anybody he could hit," said Justin Brown, an employee in a Capitol gift shop. "The first thing I thought was, 'Duck!'"

Chaos broke out in a Capitol hallway,

which fills with tourists on any summer day, when a gunman and Capitol police exchanged fire. At first, many people were stunned by the sound, unsure what was happening. How could there be shots in a building sacred by police and metal detectors at every entrance?

"I turned and I thought, 'That can't be possible, so I just kept walking,'" said Gillian Simon, visiting from Wilmington, N.C. When she heard four or five more shots and the screaming mother, and other tourists fled past her, Simon ran and hid behind a column.

Just off the first-floor hallway, House

members and aides were gathered in the office suite of Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas, to celebrate passage of a health insurance bill. Suddenly they heard a sound "like firecrackers, bang, bang, bang," said one woman, who asked to be identified only as a Ways and Means Committee aide.

A congressional staff member ran in shouting, "Everybody get down, get down!" said the woman, who was in a conference room with about a dozen other people.

Then came another round of shots. The gunman was near the back door of the office

suite, she said.

Unsure if there might be other gunmen on the loose, police officers tried to secure the building, closing off entrances. They told office staffers to lock their doors. They blocked stairways and elevators in third-floor corridors where tourists were lined up to enter balconies that overlook the House floor. Reporters were kept inside the press room. Within hours of the shootings, the flag over the Capitol was lowered to half-staff for two police officers who died of their wounds.

Squatters suspect in local fire

By Sonya Kimble-Elli

Are squatters a problem in Plainfield? "It does happen," said Plainfield Fire Chief John Rick. "And a problem it causes is that most of the buildings they're in have already had fires. A lot of these places don't have sheet rock that protects the walls."

The building at 193 North Avenue, which caught fire Monday, August 27, is believed to have been occupied by squatters. Sgt. Makowski was one of the first officers on the scene. Upon discovering the fire, he immediately evacuated the building next door. Lieutenant M.G. Edwards, who was just around the corner when a call reporting the fire came in, said he and other officers immediately entered through the back entrance of the building and started up the stairs. "We couldn't get up to the third floor," he said, "because the smoke was overwhelming."

What Edwards, Sgt. W.H. Whitley and Detective Francis found on the second floor were traces of persons occupying the building. "There's evidence of squatters being in there," Edwards said. "There was a television on."

Edwards said, as well, that the fire started on the third floor in the front area of the building. "There may have been someone living there too," added Whitley.

In a phone interview, Fire Chief Rick said the fire is under investigation but so far is determined to be suspicious. "These places don't have heat," he said, "so squatters use other sources such as grills, candles, or run extension cords from other places."

At the fire's onset, smoke billowed from just one of the third floor windows but soon made its way out of all three. After fire trucks made their way down North Avenue, some of the firemen worked to get their hose and ladder in place to put out the fire while others broke into the front door of the building to make sure no one else was inside the building.

Will the exact cause of the fire ever be determined? "I don't know if we'll ever get a determination," said Rick. "Part of doing that is discussing with people what happened. Typically, squatters won't come forward because they're trespassing."

An adjacent vacant building on North Avenue and others throughout Plainfield show evidence of squatters, with bed sheets and towels serving as curtains. With safety and health issues at major factors, the city's hands seem to be tied when it comes to completely rectifying the problem.

"Anytime we get a report of squatters, police respond," said Michael Sharpton, Plainfield's Public Safety Director. "The problem is that people



Plainfield firefighters (in left photo and top right photo) battle the blaze at 193 North Avenue. In the photo at bottom right, firefighters work to break down the entrance of the building. The fire is believed to have been caused by squatters living in the vacant building.

aren't usually willing to come forward to tell that there are squatters in vacant buildings that may be located near their homes."

Latimore says that if people are found occupying a vacant building, they are either evicted or

arrested depending on the circumstances. "Any unoccupied buildings should already be boarded up," he stressed. "If they aren't, the boards are replaced on the building's windows and entrances."

In terms of solving the problem of squatters,

Latimore said that, unfortunately, many of the owners of the vacant buildings are unable to be located. "Their help would be essential in keeping a monitor on the problem," he said. "So right now, we're handing the squatter situation on a case-by-case basis."

Jury rules Brawley advisors must pay \$345,000 to Pagonos

By Shannon McCaffrey
Associated Press

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY—A jury ordered the Reverend Al Sharpton and two other advisors to Tawana Brawley to pay \$345,000 for defaming former prosecutor Steven Pagonos, whom they accused of raping the teenager in 1987.

The jury awarded that Pagonos was below the \$150 million he was seeking, ended an often bitterly contested eight-month trial centering of accusations that Sharpton, Allan Maddox and C. Vernon Mason made in the racially polarizing case a decade ago. The advisors alleged that Pagonos, then an assistant Dutchess County district attorney, was part of a group of white men who abducted and raped Brawley, then 15, in November 1987. A special state grand jury found evidence that Brawley's rape claim was a hoax, and exonerated Pagonos, now an assistant state attorney general.

Pagonos said yesterday that the verdict provided him with a sense of closure, though he voiced some disappointment with the figure. The sum may not be high enough to silence Mason, Maddox and Sharpton, he said. "I'm pleased. I can live with it," Pagonos said. "I think I've achieved accountability. I think I achieved the truth in showing I had nothing to do

with what happened to Tawana."

Mason and Maddox showed no emotion when the verdict was announced. Sharpton was not in the courtroom, and a spokesman at his New York City office declined comment.

The jury had found the advisors liable for defamation on July 13 for 10 statements. Yesterday, they put a price tag on their judgment after deliberating for seven hours over two days. One juror disagreed with the verdict. When the jury was polled yesterday, a female juror said she did not support the final decision. That same woman, one of two blacks on the panel, has also disagreed with the initial verdict.

Sharpton was held liable for \$65,000 for making seven defamatory statements. Maddox was held liable for \$95,000 for two defamatory statements and Mason was ordered to pay \$185,000 for one statement.

Each was slapped with \$5,000 in compensatory damages, with the remainder in punitive fines.

Sharpton was held liable for "a slap on the wrist." And Sharpton's lawyer Michael Hardy said it would not stop the civil rights leader from speaking up on controversial cases.

Reverend Sharpton said that the \$65,000 judgment against him was a victory and that those who thought the Tawana Brawley case would be political career "are now backing up like

Michael Jackson doing a moonwalk."

Three jurors and the one remaining alternate who attended a post-verdict news conference said they hoped their decision sent a message without penalizing the defendants too harshly. "What what you say, do your home work before you shoot your mouth off," said juror Mark Urban, and electronic worker.

Although the jurors said that they did not find Sharpton a credible witness, they determined he was the least responsible financially out of the three because he may have been "duped" and lied what "educated lawyers" Mason and Maddox told him to do.

Much of the talk following the verdict centered around racial healing that must now take place. "Let us hope after 10½ years, the Tawana Brawley matter is finally laid to rest and we can move forward at last to promote healing and racial harmony," said state Supreme Court Justice B. Barrett Hickman after the verdict was announced.

Supporters of the Brawley advisors who voiced their protest after the jury's statement were told to be quiet by court officers. The advisors had repeatedly fingered Pagonos on radio and television beginning in March 1988, a few months after Brawley was found in a garbage bag smeared with feces and with racial slurs scrawled on her body.

New census should count blacks correctly

By Walter R. Meers
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP)—In an intensifying campaign over the way to run the millennium census, Vice President Al Gore accuses Republicans of trying to leave black Americans uncounted, Congress threatens to ration funding, and there's a GOP challenge bound for the Supreme Court.

"The census is the most partisan of all issues in goofy Washington," said Secretary of Commerce William M. Daley, the man in charge of running it.

The administration would use statistical sampling—in effect, polling techniques—to account for people otherwise missed by the census takers. Republican leaders insist it must be done by face-to-face contact, "actual enumeration" in the words of the Constitution.

Besides, they don't trust the Democrats. No census has succeeded in counting every American in person, not the first and certainly not the last, in 1990, in which an estimated eight million people were skipped, and half that many were counted twice. It was the first census judged less accurate than the one before it. The numbers were upheld after six years of court challenges.

That prompted President George Bush and the then Democratic Con-

gress to have the National Academy of Sciences look at the system. That led to the study that recommended statistical sampling to cover the otherwise uncounted.

When the census was designed that way, politics and science collided. Republicans said sampling failed the constitutional test and would risk rigged numbers. They balked and tried to forbid sampling in 1997 by tying a ban to a disaster-relief bill. President Clinton vetoed it anyway and forced them to back down.

But that was no settlement. To get census funding approved, the White House agreed to a compromise including an expedited Supreme Court review, along with a new monitoring board to oversee preparations for the count.

That bipartisan panel has met once, reflecting, and not resolving, the political dispute.

The census is the basis for congressional apportionment every decade, determining which states gain and lose seats in the House. It also produces the numbers on which congressional districts are based. But it is, and the Democratic side of that issue was evident in the setting for the president's argument on June 2, a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood in Houston, under a red, white and blue banner that read "Everyone counts."

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

CRANFORD—A real estate requirement course, "Ethics and Standards of Professional Practice" will be held from 6 to 9:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays through August 12th at the Cranford College campus. 908-709-7600.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

NEWARK—Newark Museum's annual summer Children's Theatre features diverse entertainment from live music to dance and theatrical performances beginning at noon. 973-596-6550.

EATONTOWN—SingleFaces will have a dance party beginning 9 p.m. at the Sheraton Eatontown. 732-462-2406.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

NEWARK—The 1st annual United Caribbean African Alliance festival and parade will be held at Lincoln Park beginning at 9 a.m. Downtown Broad St. will be the kaleidoscope. 1-888-88-4UCA.

MEADOWLANDS SPORTS COMPLEX—The 73rd Hambleton Festival will be held in Passaic Park. 973-993-5600.

CNJ WISOMMM on the move toward building in Plainfield

PLAINFIELD—The Central Jersey Branch of March in Support of the Million Man March (CNJWISOMMM) is organized to be a political, spiritual and cultural force in the community, by working with and through those action movements already in place, where it is needed.

Our children being our most precious possession, will be the focus of our dedication to this effort.

Continuing in the spirit of the State WISOMMM, who purchased a building (The Mansion) in Newark, NJ in less than one year after the suc-

PARLIPPANY—SingleFaces will have a dance party beginning 9 p.m. at the Parsippany Hilton. 732-462-2406.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

WATCHUNG—The Juried Members Art Show will have its public reception from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Watchung Arts Center. 908-753-0190.

EDISON—SingleFaces will have a dance party beginning 9 p.m. at the Pinus Manor. 732-462-2406.

JERSEY CITY—It's Elvis Day at Liberty Science Center from 12 to 2 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. 201-451-0006, ext. 278.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

JERSEY CITY—The Women's Center of NJ University will hold a program on "How to Finance Your College or Graduate Education" from 5 to 7 p.m. 201-200-3189.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

NEWARK—Newark Museum's annual summer Children's Theatre features diverse entertainment from live music to dance and theatrical performances beginning at noon. 973-596-6550.

cessful Million Man March, We (CNJWISOMMM) are fundraising to buy a facility in Plainfield to carry forward our mandate.

A fundraiser for that effort will be held at the State Mansion located at 53 Lincoln Park, Newark, NJ on August 29 at 7:30 p.m. Prominent guests, speakers, live music and a buffet will be the norm for the evening. Come on out and support our efforts. For more information about the affair and securing your ticket information, call 908-756-0894 and 908-756-9695.



CNJWISOMMM: back row (l-r): Mildred Simmons-Williams, Kai Niyono, Sia. Alice Muhammad; front row (l-r) Lala Salvador, Ruby Williams-Shivers

Paula Madison striving to increase diversity in newsroom

NEW YORK—Paula Madison, vice president and news director for WNBC, has been selected as the 1998 recipient of the Ida B. Wells Award, bestowed annually by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), the National Conference of Editorial Writers and the Williams Allen White School of Journalism.

The Award commemorates the life and work of Ida B. Wells, who used her newspaper to crusade against lynching. Madison was selected for her outstanding leadership as a manager who strives for increasing diversity in the newsroom.

She received the Wells Award at ceremonies recently held during the NABJ annual conference in Washington D.C.

Madison was named vice president and news director of WNBC in March 1996, making her the first African-American woman to hold that position in the New York market. She was promoted to news director after serving as the station's assistant news director for seven years.

Under her direction, "NewsChannel 4 at 11 p.m." won the May '98 sweeps period by its largest margin in 11 years, and "Today in New York," the station's 5:30-7 a.m. weekday newscast, regained its early morning news ratings crown.

Madison has also spearheaded numerous stand-alone reports for "NewsChannel 4," including a hour-long look at the New York City public school system and a half-hour report on police brutality and race relations in the tri-state area. In addition, as news anchor, Madison has devoted large portions of daily newscasts to an in-depth examination of one topical issue, including a recent 20-minute segment on the latest breakthroughs in the war against cancer and a 30-minute look at "Kids, Schools and Violence."

Also under her direction, "NewsChannel 4" was awarded a



Paula Madison, WNBC Vice-President and News Director

prestigious George Foster Peabody award for reporter Ti-Huan Chang's "Passport To Kill," a 15-minute report that aired in June, 1996 on "Live at Five."

Very active in civic and community affairs, Madison is a member of various organizations including the New York and National Association of Black Journalists, the African-American Alumnae of Vassar College, the New York Vassar Club and the New York Press Club. She also serves on the boards of the



PLAINFIELD—Plainfield city officials join law enforcement officers and kids from the neighborhood for the Phase One Cleanup of Hannah Atkins Park.

Salute to Graduates of African Heritage



NEWARK—Sparkle Bryant (right) of Newark, a senior at Jersey City State College, received the "African/Afro-American Studies Award" at the College's 15th annual "Salute to Graduates of African Heritage." Following the award presentation, Ms. Bryant gathered with (from the left): Gloria Boseman of Orange, interim dean of the JCSC School of Professional Studies and Education; and Denise Doctor of Jersey City, JCSC assistant director of public safety, and Kinna Perry of Plainfield, assistant director of the JCSC Office of Teacher Internships. Based on the theme, "Mission Accomplished: From Academics to Scholars to Higher Ground," the program was sponsored by JCSC's Black Administrators, Alumni, Faculty, Students, and Staff Organization.

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Celebrating life at 60



PLAINFIELD—Queen E. Wallace celebrated her 60th birthday recently with her royal and loyal subjects. "We hail to the QUEEN; bow with respect, on our lives together, we always reflect."
The Wallace Family: back row (l-r): Khadijah, Steven Jr., aka "Buck", Linda, Steven Sr. holding Myzaria, Queen, Terry and Tiana. Front row (l-r): Zaira, Neptarine, Niesha, Yonda aka "Kali" and Kayson. Inset photo: (l-r): Queen with her Granddaughter, Khadijah

Pitney Bowes supports service to college students



STAMFORD, CT—Pitney Bowes, Inc., was a corporate sponsor of the Black Executive Exchange Program's (BEEP) 29th annual conference in Atlanta recently. BEEP prepares students to succeed in their careers by exposing them to African-American professionals who serve as role models and provide critical information about the business world.

BEEP Director Nadine E. Medley coordinated the success conference. "We're glad that Pitney Bowes has partnered with BEEP on an ongoing basis, to make a difference to these college students through sponsorship and the involvement of talented executives who have started unique initiatives such as the Northeastern Regional BEEP Network," Medley said.

Pictured standing (l-r): Nadine E. Medley, BEEP Director, BEEP students, Tanya Taylor, Southern University New Orleans, LA and Tammi Brantley, Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA; seated left to right: Nathan McCall, author, and Eleanor Douglas, Chief Personnel Officer, Mailing Systems Division of Pitney Bowes.

NOTICE TO POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION AT HILLCREST VILLAGE APARTMENTS AND LEXINGTON VILLAGE APARTMENTS

On April 8, 1998, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey entered an order resolving a lawsuit brought by the United States Department of Justice against the owners, managers and rental agents of Hillcrest Village Apartments and Lexington Village Apartments in Clark, New Jersey. The lawsuit alleged that the defendants had discriminated against black persons who sought rental housing there. Under this order, you may be entitled to receive monetary relief if you asked about or applied for renting, or rented, an apartment at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments and:

1. You were denied an opportunity to live there because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you or
2. You were falsely told that no apartments were available because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you; or
3. You were otherwise discriminated against on the basis of race or color in connection with your occupancy at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments or your attempt to rent a unit there.

If you believe you were discriminated against because of race or color at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments, or if you have any information about persons who may have been discriminated against there on the basis of race or color, please contact the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-896-7743. You may also write to:

United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Housing and Civil Enforcement Section
P.O. Box 65998
Washington, D.C. 20035-5998

NOTE: You must call or write no later than ninety (90) days from August 8, 1998.

City News is glad to highlight our community people every week.

Send your photos and information to:
City News People, P.O. Box 1774,
Plainfield, N.J. 07060

NATIONAL WORLD
BRIEFSLEGISLATION WILL
HELP UNDERGROUND
RAILROAD

WASHINGTON — President Clinton recently signed into law legislation to help the National Park Service tell the story of the Underground Railroad. The National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) called the action essential for the preservation, commemoration, and interpretation of the hundreds of routes, sites, people, programs, activities, and events involved in America's resistance to slavery.

"Each stop along the Underground Railroad tells a story about the battle to end slavery," said Larry G. Gantt, NPCA's Cultural Outreach Manager. "Our coalition has been working to help make sure that these stories will be heard."

BLACK LAWYERS
GROUP OPENS CONVENTION

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and O.J. Simpson attorney Johnnie Cochran were among speakers last week before the nation's oldest and largest organization of black lawyers and judges.

Some 2,500 delegates were expected for the week-long convention of the National Bar Association, which began recently with a mock trial in the case of "Paula Jones v. William Jefferson Clinton." Delegates planned a sunrise "Walk for Justice" from the Peabody Hotel to the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Hotel, where civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968.

POLICE BRASS,
NAACP REVIEW
GREEK PICNIC TAPES

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The leaders of the Philadelphia NAACP and other civil rights leaders urged Philadelphia Police Commissioner John F. Timoney to punish a fire who said that these stories would be heard.

"I want to make sure that the police who are on the tape... and maybe not on the tape, but have done other activities... are punished to the full extent of the law," Mondesire said after a recent meeting that he was satisfied that police were taking the matter seriously.

DANNY GLOVER
BECOMES GOODWILL
AMBASSADOR

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — As chief of the American civil rights movement, actor Danny Glover saw the struggle for liberation close up. Glover got another chance to see the struggle, and its fruits this month during visits to Namibia and South Africa as the U.N. Development Programs first goodwill ambassador.

"These are two countries that are dealing with inequities that have accumulated over 300 years," Glover said in an interview recently. "When I see them now... I feel it remarkable." As a goodwill ambassador, Glover is helping spread the message that people can organize themselves to improve their lives.

PANEL CHOSEN TO
GIVE ROBINSON
MEDAL

NEW YORK — Governor Pataki recently named members of the commission that will award the Jackie Robinson Empire State Freedom Medal, which was created to honor the man who broke major league baseball's color barrier.

"Jackie Robinson was a true hero who stood for dignity, fairness, justice and honor," Governor Pataki said. "This new medal gives all an opportunity to honor Jackie Robinson and all that he stood for every year, and to recognize that the great principles of this great man are alive and well today." Governor Pataki, with Jackie's widow Rachel Robinson at his side, unveiled the medal last year at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown.

Housing forum focuses on safe communities

WASHINGTON — Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo was joined recently by Harvard Professor Cornel West, the Rev. Eugene Rivers and former New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton at a forum to discuss ways to build on the crime reduction of the last five years to make America's cities safer.

The HUD Community 2020 Forum focused on how to best maintain safe streets and neighborhoods by strengthening families, building new relationships between police and communities, and learning what is working at the block and neighborhood level across the country.

Discussing the forum, President Clinton said: "This type of exchange is exactly what we need to have more of... involving and empowering communities. By bringing together important figures in academia and public service, Secretary Cuomo is

injecting current theory and debate into national policy."

Cuomo told more than 1,000 people attending the seminar: "Crime feared the exodus to the suburbs. It preys on the most vulnerable among us... our seniors and the poor... the poor are victimized at twice the rate of richer Americans." He praised law enforcement agencies for helping to bring the crime rate down.

Rivers, who is Professor of African Studies and Philosophy of Religion at Harvard, said it is important to find the means to reconstitute the American family community, and called for a return to a sense of service to some higher cause... an ascent of the role of citizenship."

HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo and Harvard Professor Cornel West addressed the recent Community 2020 Forum in Washington on ways to build crime reduction.



HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo and Harvard Professor Cornel West addressed the recent Community 2020 Forum in Washington on ways to build crime reduction.

able outcomes."

Two weeks ago President Clinton visited his second State of the Cities report, which showed that despite a

Army pays tribute to
World War II veterans

By John Diamond
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army honored five black soldiers recently who jumped at the chance to fight Germany 54 years ago but waited nearly a lifetime for full recognition.

At a ceremony in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, the Army's No. 2 general awarded medals to five soldiers who were among 2,271 black soldiers who answered Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's emergency call to serve in the front lines with units deployed in the fight against Germany.

The opportunity to be the first black soldiers to serve with white troops on the front lines came with a catch, however. The volunteers had to give up their noncommissioned officer's stripes and serve as privates. When they returned to their units at the end of the war, their test rank was not restored.

And after the war, when the military decided to award the Bronze Star to all who had served as combat infantrymen, these men were not contacted.

Through contacts by black veterans organizations and individual letters, the Army learned of its oversight and took steps this year to correct the record.

Gen. William W. Croach, the Army vice chief of staff and master of ceremonies pinned the medals on the attendees and handed two of the veterans "shadow boxes" lined with velvet and containing the sergeant's stripes they had pulled from their uniforms for the privilege of taking up a rifle against Hitler's soldiers.

The Bronze Stars went to Malveaux, a native of Galveston, Texas, and now a resident of the Bronx, New York; former Sgt. J.C. Wade of Irving, Texas; former Pfc. Andrew W. Nix Jr., of Philadelphia, former Tech 5 Mate Montgomery of Chapman, Ala., and former Sgt. Martell Pollock Jr., of Atlanta.

Malveaux and Wade had their sergeant's rank restored.

Malveaux and Wade attended: Dorothy Nix accepted for her husband, who was traveling; Montgomery and Pollock were unable to attend. The veterans stood in front of an Army flag bearing the service's battle streamers extending back to the Battle of Lexington in April 1775.

Almost one in four preschoolers lives in poverty, which makes the youngest Americans the poorest, too.

But a study shows tremendous variations across the country over the last two decades in poverty rates and trends.

In Louisiana, four in 10 children under age six lived in poverty between 1992 and 1996. But in New Hampshire and Utah, it was under 12 percent.

"I expected to see variation but not as dramatic variation as we found," said Neil Bennett, co-author of the study released recently by the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University. "A fourfold difference between states... is a stunning difference to be reckoned."

The study took the average poverty rate from 1979 to 1983 and compared it with the average in 1993-1996.

California, Texas and New York, where nearly half the poor children live, saw increases of more than 20 percent each, which helped drive the national rate up 12 percent.

But there was wide variation in growth. In Connecticut, the rate jumped 62 percent, bringing that state's rate close to the national average. Meanwhile, its New England neighbor Vermont saw a drop of 36 percent, producing one of the country's lowest rates.

In the typical state, the study found, about 30 percent of the change can be attributed to changes in the number of mothers who are heads of household, the proportion of young children with single moms and the portion with at least one parent working full time.

Those factors varied widely by state, with some correlation to child poverty.

Connecticut, for example, had a 13 percent drop in the number of children with a parent working full time, but that figure jumped 48 percent in Alaska, which saw a 23 percent drop in the young child poverty rate.

Memorial honors African-American Civil War veterans



"The Spirit of Freedom" memorial pays tribute to 208,943 black troops.

WASHINGTON — On Saturday, July 18, the first national monument, "The Spirit of Freedom" memorial was unveiled to honor and salute 208,943 U.S. colored troops and 1,000 white officers who gallantly fought in the Civil War.

The event attracted 50,000 visitors including descendants, genealogists, historians and national leaders from around the country. The historic ceremony was held on a newly refurbished \$3 million plaza adjacent to the Cardozo Shaw Green Historic Site, in Washington. The 1 1/2 hour program included Lt. General Joe Ballard, who represented Defense Secretary Cohen. Ben Johnson, a letter from President Clinton, and other board members, partners and elected officials and sponsors celebrated this historic occasion. Those who visited historic exhibits from around the country, including Kentucky African-Americans in the Civil War from Kentucky State University, Michigan Association of Exhibits, the Smithsonian Institution's "Out of Africa," "The Middle Passage," and Brown vs. Board of Education, from Topeka, Kansas.

The area of Washington where the monument is located was named the "Shaw" neighborhood many years ago in honor of Robert Gould Shaw.

commander of the Massachusetts 54th Volunteer Infantry. Several commanders named the monument in the Shaw area after the Civil War — some of who attended the unveiling.

The chairman of the Civil War Memorial Foundation, Honorable Frank Smith Jr. said: "The Civil War Memorial is dedicated to the memory of all the African American soldiers and sailors and their freedom loving officers, who trained, fought and died to make America free. It is long overdue!"

The task of building the memorial is being carried out by the American Civil War Memorial Foundation, under the leadership of project director Lydia Grant. The project is in cooperation with the National Park Service, the National Archives, DC Department of Public Works and hundreds of volunteers throughout the Washington Area, and nationally.

On November 11, 1998, Veterans Day, the walls holding the plaques with 208,943 soldiers names will be unveiled. The general public is invited to the celebration of the completion of the shrine African American Civil War Memorial plaza sculpture and memorial walls.

President's race initiative
board holds fourth forum

WASHINGTON — U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater and Robert Thomas, advisory board member to the President's Initiative on Race, recently led the Race Initiative's fourth regional corporate forum in St. Louis, Missouri. The forum took place at the Embassy Suites Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. Opening remarks were made by St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon. The forum brought together more than 100 regional corporate and business executives to discuss the economic value of diversity, ways to effective build relationships between majority and minority-owned businesses, and best practices for fostering productive, racially diverse workplaces.

The agenda included a keynote address by Secretary Slater on the "Economics of Diversity," an overview by Gary Bernstein, President of Market Segment Research & Consulting, on the "changing demographics in America and the impact on the business community," and two panel discussions moderated by Secretary Slater.

The first panel focused on "examining the economic value of

diversity." The participants included: Sue Bhutta, CEO of Rose International; Harold Law, President of Decision & Advance Technology Association; and Dora Serrano, Manager of the Missouri Department of Economic Development Office of Minority Affairs.

Following the discussion, Secretary Slater moderated an audience question and answer session; Advisory Board member Robert Thomas presented current workplace practices; and audience groups explored how to "build relationships between minority and majority owned businesses & key elements of successful and potential promising practices."

The second panel examined "key elements of success for building diversity in the workplace." Among the panelists were: Jacqueline Gates, vice president of Ethics, Compliance, Diversity & Organizational Development for Bell Atlantic; L. Charles Matthews, vice president of Diversity Management for Quaker Oats Company; Sandra Boyle, director of Diversity for Monsanto Corporation; and Lee Roper, vice president for the Native American Business Alliance.

Unwanted
billboards
leave cities

CLEVELAND (AP) — Liquor and tobacco billboards, long common in inner-city neighborhoods, have started to disappear in Cleveland, where a ban will go into effect in March of 1999.

An ordinance adopted six months ago allows billboard companies to honor existing contracts until March 31, the number of billboards advertising liquor and tobacco products already is dwindling.

"You wouldn't have found any of these a few months ago," said ordinance sponsor Councilwoman Odella Robinson, pointing out replacement billboards advertising a bar, ice and a bank. "The only thing you saw before were ads for cigarettes or liquor."

David Vale, a vice president at Eller Media Co., the largest billboard company in the Cleveland area, said tobacco ads account for about 20 percent of his company's business and alcohol, five percent. He said the company has had to turn down requests from these advertisers to place ads, and is finding businesses to replace them will be difficult.

Billboard companies as well as alcohol and tobacco companies lobbied against the ordinance.

Black drivers
targeted

MARYLAND (NNPA) — Colonel David Mitchell, Maryland's chief state trooper says state police doesn't continue race-based profiling on highway.

Still, members of the African-American community aren't so sure about 95, an allegedly popular route for weapon and drug smuggling. While Blacks represent only 17 percent of the drivers on the route they were pulled over 70 percent of the time.

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Political Analysis: FIELD ASSIGNMENT

By Walter Fields

Democrats may now try to turn the tide on the GOP. That would be a mistake. Politically, it makes perfect sense but its poor governance. If however who could blame Democrats for being angry. The party has had the tax monkey on its back for almost a decade. By default, Republicans refer to the Florio tax increase when drawing distinctions between the two parties. Democrats, in turn, are always on the defensive. Tax rhetoric needs to be cast aside for good governance.

It's now time to come clean with voters. Sometimes, taxes are a necessary evil; our quality of life is often dependent upon our willingness to pay a little more. It's that simple.

Sincerely,
Joseph Turpin, Representative
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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

FAIRFIELD — A two-day seminar on facilities management held at the Best Western Executive Inn from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register or for more information, call 1-800-821-3919.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

ISLELAIN — The New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners sponsors a Summer Membership Open House at Italian Touch Restaurant. For more info, call (732) 651-1495.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

PHILADELPHIA — Attend a two-day seminar on facilities management at the Club Hotel by Doubletree. For more information, call 1-800-821-3919.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

FREEHOLD — Attend a two-day workshop that focuses on Business Writing & Grammar Skills. The session will be held at the Freehold Garden Hotel. For more information, call (800) 258-7248.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

NEWARK — The New Jersey Institute of Technology sponsors at breakfast seminar titled "The Resource Center for the Future" Seminars on Business Research, Career Development Services, and NJIT's Division of Continuing Professional Education. Session will take place from 8:30-10:30 a.m. For more information, call 973-596-5404.

DALLAS — The National Association of African American Chambers of Commerce presents "Developing An Economic Foundation for the Millennium." The annual seminar will be held at the Hyatt Regency. For more information, call (214) 871-3060.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

EDISON — A comprehensive two-day workshop on Business Writing & Grammar Skills held at the Clarion Hotel at Edison Square. For more information, call 1-800-258-7248.

ATLANTA — The Black Professional Secretaries Association holds the 9th Annual Professional Development Conference at the Atlanta Professional Secretaries Hotel. Workshops include building a web page, and preparing for the "virtual office." For more information, call 770-578-5005.

PENNSYLVANIA — "Come Meet The Boyes" in a public/private forum sponsored by GPU Energy in Reading, Pennsylvania. For more information, call 215-883-9977.

MORRISTOWN — Learn the fundamentals of a successful management. The two-day workshop will be held at the Ramada Hotel East Windsor. For more information, call (800) 873-7545.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

SOMERSET — The Somerset County Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for their "Recognition of Outstanding Business Person" event on November 4. For more information, call 908-725-1552.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

EDISON — A one-day seminar titled "Business Writing Basics for Professionals" at the Ramada Inn. For more information, call 1-800-873-7545.

Minority-owned firms network at PSE&G public utilities forum



Herb Tate, president of New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities, addresses the audience attending the forum.

iversity



Larry Cody is the president and COO of PSE&G.

NEWARK — Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) recently provided 22 minority-owned firms with the opportunity to meet with key officials from more than 25 major corporations and utilities at the first

Minority Contractor Meeting with Regional Utilities. The purpose of the event, which was held at PSE&G's headquarters in Newark, was to provide a forum for the minority construction firms to "match" with major companies

with compatible construction needs.

Among the major corporations and utilities that attended the event were Alliant Electric Co., GPU Energy, Rackland Electric, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and Schering Plough. The minority contractors that participated in the event all have experience in the utility construction field. In addition, all took part in PSE&G's 1997-98 Minority Contractor Development Initiative, where the companies developed new skills by working with various construction departments within PSE&G.

Attendees also heard remarks from several officials, including Larry Cody, PSE&G president and chief operating officer, and the Honorable Herbert Tate, Jr., President, State of New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

PSE&G is committed to building a diverse supplier base because it makes good business sense," said Cody. "We have come to realize that it is a true, strategic advantage to explore supplier relationships with companies whose composition reflects the diversity of our customers. In addition, the new points of view we receive can help us find better, more effective ways to serve our customers."

The "Minority Contractor Meeting with Regional Utilities" is part of PSE&G's overall commitment to supplier diversity and to expanding opportunities for minority-owned businesses. These efforts have been recognized by a number of organizations, including the International Minority Business Council, which named PSE&G 1997 Corporate Partner of the Year and the New York/New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council, which names PSE&G 1996 Corporation of the Year.

Buying versus renting

Dale G. Caldwell



There is constant debate over whether it is better to buy a house or to rent. Many people are convinced that paying rent is a complete waste of money. Others believe that renting an apartment or house gives them financial flexibility to make better investments more quickly. As in most financial planning situations, neither point of view is always correct. The right financial decision depends on the unique situation of each individual and the property that they are considering.

Total rental cost

Too often, people compare renting to owning without considering the total costs. If you are renting a townhouse, apartment or Co-op you typically have monthly maintenance costs. These costs typically range from \$100 to \$900 a month and cover building repairs, utilities, moving the lawn, planting flowers, a doorman and the use of a pool and/or a tennis court. It is important to include these costs in your total rent calculations. Most people seem to overlook these costs and find that potential that they may go up when comparing one apartment complex to another. For example, if your monthly rent is \$800 a month and your maintenance charges are \$300 a month, make sure that you calculate your total rent as \$1,100 a month or \$800.

Total homeowner cost

Homeowners are even more likely to overlook the total cost of buying a house. Most homeowners mistakenly think that their monthly mortgage amount combined with their monthly tax payment, insurance and utility costs represent their total homeowner costs. However, nothing can be further from the truth. Most homeowners spend a great deal of time at their local hardware store or a lot of money hiring someone to take care of their home maintenance. These costs should be included as you are making your rent/buy decision. However, the lost investment potential of the down payment is often forgotten when calculating the total cost of buying a house. This figure should also be included in the cost of homeowner-

Three key decision factors

There are many factors that you

should consider when you are deciding to buy or rent. I believe that the three most important are:

1) Your tax bracket — There are tax advantages for some people owning.

However, these benefits are not the same for everyone. If you are in a high tax bracket then the tax advantages can be significant. For example, if you are in the 35 percent tax bracket then you are able to shift \$35 out of every \$100 you pay in mortgage interest back to the Internal Revenue Service. If you are in a low tax bracket these benefits may not help you. The IRS allows a standard deduction for tax payers. If you are in a low tax bracket this deduction may more than cover any benefits that you would get from your mortgage interest deduction. This would negate any tax advantages that you would gain by owning a home. For people in lower tax brackets, mortgage interest is often (but not always) the best option.

2) Your financial situation — Your financial situation will determine whether you can realistically consider purchasing a house. If you must have sufficient savings, good credit and a solid job to get financing. If you are missing any one of these then you may have trouble finding financing and may be forced to rent.

3) The home/rental prices in your target market — In certain real estate markets the prices of homes are so high that most people are unable to seriously consider homeownership. The rent/buy decision is unfortunately very easy in these real estate markets. In other markets the decision is much more difficult. One important thing to remember is that you should consider both the sale and resale potential of the homes you are evaluating.

The decision to buy or rent is not an easy one. You should consult a financial planner who will review your unique situation and help you make this important decision. If you would like information on financial planning in your area please e-mail me at dacaldwell@dtus.com.

Dale Caldwell is the National Recruiting Director for Deloitte & Touche.

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50 Years in Business, We Must Be Doing Something Right!

The state of black business

by Harry C. Alford

According to the 1992 census data, there are over 640,000 Black owned businesses producing over \$32 billion dollars in annual sales. This represents about one percent of the total output. The growth rate of 46 percent (1992 vs. 1987) is the slowest among all ethnic groups.

The year 1997 was the biggest economic growth period in the history of the nation. However, according to Black Enterprise Magazine, the 100 companies that suffered a nine percent loss in sales during the same year.

The Selig Center for Business, University of Georgia, states that Black citizens have, after tax, consumable dollars of over \$500 billion annually. This is 7.6 percent of the total. In other words, if we had our fair share—14 percent—it would total over a trillion dollars.

But it does not really matter when over 98 percent of our dollars are spent out of our communities. We could have over \$100 trillion and it

still would go immediately out of the community and benefit other groups' net worth. We are, in effect, counter slaves.

Consumer slaves indeed! Our net worth at the end of slavery in 1865 was approximately 1.2 percent of the total. Today, one hundred and thirty-eight years later our net worth is approximately 1.5 percent of the total. Take away our home equity and it will not equate to 5 percent. Yes, we are spinning our wheels and much of this comes from a misunderstanding of capitalism—the economic system this nation was founded on and thrives on.

A fine example of this ignorance happened nearly twenty years ago.

What about ourselves? A self-hatred that keeps from supporting our own businesses. An ignorance that forbids us from understanding the key to economic affluency is a structured economic infrastructure that keeps our precious dollars circulating in our

community. A jealousy taught during slavery that still exists today. An example is the fact that the publishers of *Ebony Magazine* refused to mention the name of the great Reginald Lewis, owner of Beatrice International, in their magazine article after his death. The greatest Black entrepreneur was not given recognition because he was considered "too successful."

As we approach the third millennium we, through the National Black Chamber of Commerce, can make a change and begin moving forward. It is going to take the building of an economic infrastructure in every community we inhabit. There must be thousands of dry cleaners and convenience stores. At the same time we must begin to establish successful supermarkets, banks, utility companies, etc.

The infrastructure will ensure that our dollars will circulate and, in effect, multiply their worth within our communities. Jobs are tied to business growth. Business ownership is tied to our net worth.

Do you dare sell?

BROOKLYN, NY—British author, Patrick Ellis, has compiled his twenty-five years of knowledge and expertise into 490 pages in his new book *Who Dare Sells* (Sunstar Publishing Ltd). This is your ultimate salesmanship training course in one volume, for it covers aspects of selling you may have never considered— aspects that affect the outcome of each and every presentation you make!

For starters, you'll be amazed at the in-depth information Ellis has gathered about 60 different types of buyers. Did you know that clothing color choices provide you with hints about a person's personality? If you have ever had trouble reading a client, you'll

learn how to interpret non-verbal messages that convey a person's emotions and actions. Ellis says that if you begin to live what you read within these pages, you're sure to achieve a higher or level of successful sales.

Based on the premise that all businesses sell products, services or ideas, Ellis has left no stone unturned when it comes to revealing the ins and outs of salesmanship.

WHO DARES SELLS

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO SELLING ANYTHING TO ANYONE

SBA issues rules for HUBZ programs

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently issued proposed rules for the HUBZ (Historically Underutilized Business Zones) program that will increase federal procurement opportunities for small businesses located in economically distressed communities throughout the United States.

Increased contracting activity by HUBZ firms is expected to promote private-sector employment and create as many as 25,000 new jobs in the first year of the program.

The new workers will be employed

by qualified small businesses located in HUBZs (Historically Underutilized Business Zones), which are areas of generally low income and high unemployment. HUBZs are located in more than 7,000 urban census tracts, in 900 mostly rural counties, and on every Native American reservation.

Under the HUBZ legislation, a specified level of federal contracts is reserved for small businesses in HUBZs. To qualify, a small business' principal office must be in a HUBZ and at least 35 percent of its employees must reside in the zone.

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Getting a shot at the 'American Dream'

By Veresa Dobnik Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A new \$2 billion mortgage program will offer 35,000 families a shot at the American dream — by helping them buy their own homes, the Ford Foundation said recently.

"We are here to take a risk; we're pushing the envelope," said Susan Berresford, president of the philanthropy that is granting \$50 million to cover any losses that might occur as a result of loans.

The five-year program will finance the mortgages of 35,000 lower-income homeowners across the country in a partnership among the foundation, Fannie Mae, the nation's largest source of home mortgage funds, and Seligman & Co., a North Carolina-based community development organization.

Mortgage candidates must earn less than 80 percent of the median income of the community they're considering; there is no lowest income cap. Applicants will be judged by criteria beyond their income.

In addition, Fannie Mae, a congressionally chartered private company based in Washington, has promised to provide \$1 billion in lending targeted at homeowners who don't fit the traditional mold by the year 2000.

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Local Briefs

Newark Library gets \$15,000 grant

NEWARK—The Newark Public Library was one of the first libraries to receive a New Jersey Library Award and the Atlantic Access New Jersey grant. When William Freeman, President of Bell Atlantic, presented Dr. Alan Boyd, director of The Newark Public Library with a check for \$15,000 recently.

Six libraries will receive an Assey New Jersey grant for projects designed to serve as models for the use of telecommunications technologies to increase access to library services. The Newark Public Library received its grant for the project to increase access to library resources and services by installing a kiosk at the Gateway Center.

We are excited to extend The Newark Public Library into the community," Dr. Boyd said. "And we look forward to placing other kiosks throughout the community in the future."

Freeman said, "This project is an example of what we believe is true—to take the technology to the people."

Foundation awards \$60,000 in grants

CRANFORD—To promote innovations in educational endeavors, the Union County College Foundation has awarded \$60,000 in grants for 16 projects designed and to be implemented by faculty and staff members. Among the top awards recipients are projects that creatively integrate the use of instructional technology into the classroom. Each of the awards is for an effort to be undertaken during the 1998-99 academic year.

Among the recipients are Sharon Johnson, director of the Educational Opportunity Fund, a statewide effort to afford higher educational opportunities to persons who are socioeconomically disadvantaged. Upon EOPF's 30th anniversary throughout New Jersey, Ms. Johnson plans to conduct a variety of College and community activities throughout the year.

Grants available to neighborhood leaders

MORRISTOWN—Neighborhood leaders who complete a nine-month statewide leadership training program are eligible to receive \$5,000-\$5,000 grants for innovative, community projects to improve family and neighborhood life.

Since 1992, over 300 grassroots leaders have graduated from the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative (NLI) of the Community Foundation of New Jersey. Each year, about 35 grassroots leaders are accepted as NLI Fellows who benefit from meeting similar leaders from neighboring communities throughout the state. Sessions are held monthly, in locations across the state. Leaders from faith institutions, neighborhood and tenant groups, human service agencies invited to apply.

To receive more information and the application form, contact: Community Foundation of NJ at 973-267-5533 x11. The application deadline for the NLI Class of '99 is August 15, 1998.

Union County Arc pays service bills

PLAINFIELD—At the end of the 1997-98 fiscal year, The Arc of Union County delivered to the City of Plainfield a \$3,000 check in appreciation of the municipal services that are provided to The Arc's Plainfield group homes for individuals with developmental disabilities. According to Frank X. Caragher, Executive Director of The Arc of Union County, "In this tax cut environment, we hope any effort, no matter how small, will be appreciated by the municipality."

While such homes are tax exempt according to the IRS codes, their residents receive municipal services such as fire, police and first aid. "Each check has been sent to the Mayor's office with a note explaining that this opportunity represents our appreciation of the municipalities' service and support," said Caragher. "We want to be good, responsible neighbors."

Cotton weaves an evening of dreams

By Avery Grant

ASBURY PARK—Into the elegantly refurbished Asbury Park Paramount Theater, glided some of the most beautifully attired, and most talented youth from high schools in Monmouth County. The occasion was the 48th Annual Monmouth County Cotton, and its theme was, "Your Dreams Can Come True."

Twenty-two beautifully gowned debutantes, all high school seniors, were proudly presented by their fathers, and were greeted with a thunderous applause as they walked to the song, "The Loveliest Night of the Year." Their dance was choreographed by Ray "Mr. Cotton" Williams and Marion Stephens. The debutantes and their escorts, with their specialty jazz dance, choreographed by Patricia Wilds, brought the applauding audience to their feet.

Dr. Geraldine Ellison, an assistant principal at the Long Branch High School, and an honored guest at the cotton, told the debutantes and escorts that their dreams can come true, and, "It is important that you make sensible and wise choices at all times: don't throw away the principles and standards you have grown up with, just because you have gone away to a college campus."

Attorney Robert L. Tarver, Jr., Deputy Public Defender in charge of the Ocean County office, gave a television legal and news commentator, was also an honored guest.

ored guest. Tarver, referencing Spike Lee's current movie, said, "Your dreams can come true if you 'got game,' and I am not talking about basketball. I am talking about the game of life; you will meet many adversities, but you can comeback if you 'got game.'" Further he said, "It is important that you know your place in the game, that is that you have a right to be here, God put you here."

The highlight and most anticipated event of the cotton is the naming of the King and Queen. They are selected by scoring the highest on an academic examination conducted for the cotton committee by Brookdale Community College, and meeting all the cotton entrance requirements. This year's King and Queen, were, Kenneth Ingram II, Neptune High School, and Sherry L. Smith, Asbury Park High School. Each received a \$2,000 scholarship. Ingram, the son of Kenneth and Talaya Ingram, will spend Montclair State College and study Computer Science. Smith, the daughter of Lynett Washington and Frank Smith, will attend Spellman College, Rutgers or Temple University and study pre-medicine.

First runner-ups were Lawrence Richardson, Long Branch High School, son of Lawrence and Miya Richardson; and Tameka Nicole Motley, Neptune High School, daughter of Lawrence and Gloria Beaudry. Both received \$1,750 scholarships.

Richardson will attend Morgan State or Virginia State University and study political science/history. Motley will attend Temple University and study psychology.

Second runner-ups were, Kevin Taylor, Long Branch High School, son of Diane Taylor and Corinne Burton, Long Branch High School, daughter of Rev. Harold and Jacquelyn Burton. Both received \$1,250 scholarship. Taylor will attend Old Dominion, Virginia State or George Washington University and study computer science. Burton will attend the University of Maryland and study engineering.

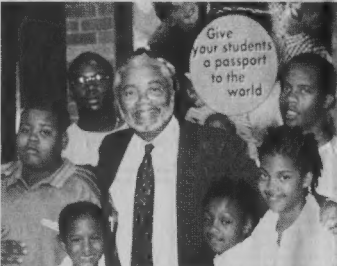
Kellie Jelks, Long Branch High School, received a \$1,350 scholarship for selling the most ads (\$3,000) for the program journal, Lassa D. Johnson, High Technology High School, received a \$1,100 scholarship for second place. Roscino Credle, Red Bank Regional High School received a \$800 scholarship for selling the most tickets. Larissa D. Johnson received a \$700 scholarship for second place. All debutantes and escorts received a \$100 book award for meeting all cotton requirements.

Mrs. Courtney Lynn Wilds was the Cotton General Chairperson. Over the past 17 years the Monmouth County Cotton has awarded more than \$432,000 in scholarships. It is estimated that this year's 48 years it has awarded more than \$700,000.



Twirling on the ballroom floor: debutantes and their escorts dance at the 48th Annual Monmouth County Cotton held in the Paramount Theater in Asbury Park.

Fresh Air kids go to the theater



Assemblyman Payne took a few of his friends to see the musical "Carousel" at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

NEWARK—A group of children from throughout the 29th district recently were treated to an evening of theater fun as they joined Assemblyman William D. Payne (D-Essex/Union) at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center for the presentation of Carousel. The Assemblyman hosted the children from The Fresh Air Fund, The North Ward Center, The City of Newark and Hillside Township at the Rogers Hammerstein musical production.

A strong advocate for children, Assemblyman Payne has championed the safety, educational and quality of life rights of children in much of his proposed legislation. This outing is one of many ongoing efforts to build and improve the quality of life for children by building cultural awareness and providing exposure to the arts in New Jersey.

It is a pleasure for me to sponsor an enjoyable and memorable event for the children of the 29th district. Some of the children may be attending the theater for the first time. I am happy for the opportunity to share in this experience with them," said Assemblyman Payne.

Plainfield receives six month authority service bill

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority is looking to get on its scheduled quarterly billing cycle with the issuance of a six month bill for sanitary sewer and solid waste services for April 1 to September 30.

Eric Watson, PMUA Executive Director said, "We especially want residents to understand the higher bill amount is not from a rate increase but represents two billing periods, the second quarter—April to June, and the third quarter—which covers July to September."

"In fact," he said more specifically, "residents are seeing lower solid waste charges (at about \$2.50 per month) in their bills since we reduced rates from \$30.46 to \$27.90 per month in May. Sewer rates have remained unchanged for several years."

Jim Perry, CFO for the PMUA said, "Our approved rates are based on scheduled quarterly payments and this one

time six-month bill is necessary to put us on the proper billing cycle. After this residents will see quarterly bill at the beginning of each calendar quarter."

The PMUA is providing residents additional information with a bill insert explaining details of the six-month bill. The Authority is reminding residents that for quicker service bills can be paid by mail to Post Office Box 22310, Newark, NJ. Payment can be made in person in Plainfield at Rapp's Pharmacy 611, Park Avenue, at Summit Bank, East Front Street, or at the PMUA Main Administrative Office in the Union Building at Front and Watchung.

The Authority will open its offices one-hour earlier at 8 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and provide extended office hours at 7 p.m. on Thursday the next two weeks to accommodate walk-ins. Telephone inquiries are directed to the toll free line at 1-888-336-6999.

James stands by tax rate

NEWARK—Mayor Sharpe James maintained that there are no errors in the 1998 municipal budget that he presented to the City Council last February, and countering a press release issued by the governing body alleging a miscalculation in the proposed tax rate.

"We already are more than halfway through this current fiscal year and are in an even better position than we were six months ago to project our 1998 revenues and appropriations. I can state confidently that our revenue projections

are sufficient to sustain the projected tax rate of \$22.96 per \$100 of assessed valuation that we proposed February 9, 1998," he stated.

James said he stands by the spending plan that charges taxpayers a five percent reduction in the property tax rate and an across the board reduction in fees for all water users.

"The cost of 300 new police officers is tied directly to the additional \$17.9 million the City will receive from the Port Authority this year," he added in response to the Council's asking how the officers would be paid.

James vowed in his February 9 budget message to hire the additional officers, who would be assigned to Newark neighborhoods to fight drugs on the streets and to tackle quality of life crimes.

"It always has been a policy of my administration to comply with state law and recommend a balanced budget to the governing body," he said, noting, "Unfortunately, some council members are still campaigning and using misinformation to confuse and inflame our citizens."

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MADISON:
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MILLSBORO: 1000 Morris Avenue
NAVAHOG: Highway 36 and Valley Drive
PLAINFIELD: 1200 Springfield Avenue
ROCKY HILL: 100 North Plaza
SCOTCH PLAIN: 130 Shoreline

SPRINGFIELD:
170 North Plaza
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TOMS RIVER: 1000 Morris Avenue
UNION: 1000 Morris Avenue
271 East Livingston Avenue
437 North Avenue

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Larry Doby enters baseball hall of fame

By Andre Worthly

On July 26 Larry Doby and Bullet Joe Rogan were among those inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum at a cere-



Bullet Joe Rogan, another Negro League inductee into the Baseball Hall of Fame last month, played for the Kansas City Monarchs.

mony in Cooperstown, New York. An exclusive honor, only one percent of those who played major league baseball has a plaque in Cooperstown.

In July 1947—three months after Jackie Robinson shattered baseball's color barrier—Bill Veeck, then owner of the Cleveland Indians, bought Larry Doby's contract from the Negro League's Newark Eagles.

Doby became the first black player in the American League, and only the second black player in the major leagues.

Until recently, Doby has been a forgotten player, living in Jackie Robinson's shadow. However, both men shared similar experiences as promoting integration in a hostile environment.

In the summer of '47, Larry Doby was a kid who just wanted to play baseball; a talented young rookie excited about being called up to the big leagues. When he got there, however, he was greeted with a tidal wave of racial hatred.

From the very beginning, Doby had to endure endless racial insults and death threats. He was shunned by many of his teammates. Opposing pitchers hurled fireballs at his head. After sliding into second base, a shortstop spit in his face. On the road, white hotels and restaurants turned him away. Despite the racism and the loneliness, he survived.

During Doby's 13 years in the majors, the seven-time All-Star out-

fielder earned a World Series ring by hitting the game-winning home run in game four of Cleveland's six-game triumph over Boston in the 1948 World Series. Doby also won two American League (AL) home run titles. He retired in 1959 with a .283 lifetime batting average and 253 home runs.

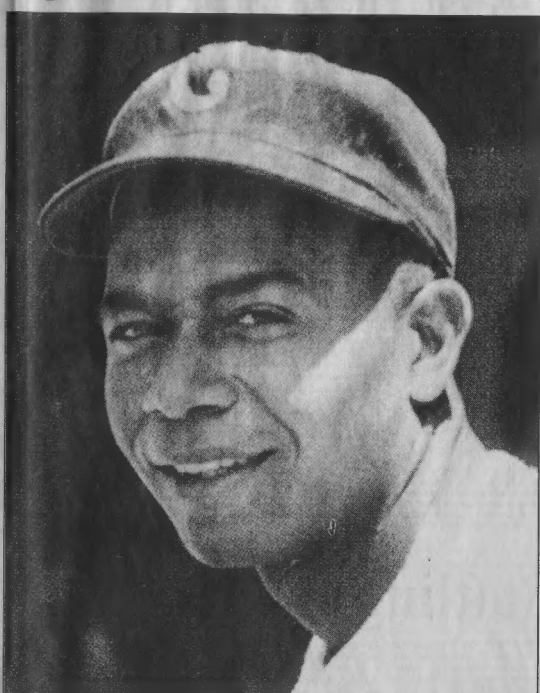
In 1978, he was named manager of the Chicago White Sox; the second black manager in the majors after Frank Robinson. In July 1997 the Cleveland Indians honored Doby at a sold-out Jacobs Field.

Another Hall of Fame inductee this year is Negro League star Bullet Joe Rogan. Discovered by Casey Stengel, Rogan pitched for the Kansas City Monarchs from 1920 to 1938, and helped the Monarchs win four Negro League World Series titles.

Known for a quick, no-windup delivery and a blazing fastball, Rogan ranked fifth among Negro League pitchers in career wins as a pitcher (113-45). He also hit cleanup in the Monarchs' Murderers' Row, and retired with a .343 career batting average.

At this year's ceremony, Sam Lacy, one of the first black members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America, was recognized as a pioneer in baseball journalism.

The other 1998 Hall of Fame inductees are: Don Sutton, former AL president Lee MacPhail, and 19th Century shortstop George Davis.



Larry Doby was a member of the Newark Eagles before the Cleveland Indians bought his contract. Still a resident of New Jersey, he resides in Montclair.



Continuing 50 years of military progress

By Eddie N. Williams

Fifty years ago this month, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9881, formally mandating the integration of the armed forces. Truman's action put in motion a process that, over five decades, placed the military at the forefront of racial inclusion in our nation. Many believe this executive order began the transformation of our racially divided society.

At the outset of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was commander-in-chief of a military force that, like many other American institutions, had always been racially segregated.

Military segregation was defended with long-held bigoted and irrational assertions that Blacks would not be reliable in combat and that White soldiers should never have to take orders from Blacks. Thus, in all wars up to President Truman's time, blacks often found themselves fighting on two fronts against a foreign enemy and against the unfriendly fire of those exposing racial discrimination. In fact, African Americans even had to fight for the right to fight for their country. Generally shunned off into support units such as supply and transportation battalions, Black soldiers' requests for combat duty were routinely denied.

The irony of finding a divided force became obvious when blacks

were permitted to participate in the prosecution of the final push against Germany. American commanders who drew the color line between them found that it was impossible to maintain racially separate infantry units and at the same time succeed on the battlefield. In the fog of war, black troops frequently found themselves fighting alongside their white comrades as their distinct assigned areas of combat blurred with the ebb and flow of the fray. After all, in the thick of battle for soldiers would refuse the aid of another in the same uniform but of a different race.

Truman's executive order sought to eliminate the possibility that American forces would be divided in the face of a common enemy. It also had the effect of dealing with discrimination in the off-duty lives of our soldiers. But it took decades to achieve those goals. The last all-Black unit wasn't eliminated until the early 1950s. The services had to find desegregated schools for military dependents and worked to end discrimination in off-base rental housing. The Pentagon's program for the recruitment and promotion of non-Whites in the officer corps became a model of how affirmative action should work if instituted with good will and intelligence. Progress was slow, but by the early 1980s the military, especially the army, led most other institutions in this society

in the equal treatment of Americans of color.

In recent years, however, it seems the military has relaxed these efforts. Colonel Carrie W. Kendrick, a recent military fellow away at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, conducted a study in 1997 to examine the progress of blacks since 1948. Her findings, which appear in a just-released Joint Center report, "African American Officers' Role in the Future Army," indicate that the promotion of black officers is declining. Black servicemen have also been the targets of racially motivated harassment and violence at military installations.

African Americans have shed their blood on countless battlefields for this nation since its founding. Five thousand Black troops served under General George Washington in the Revolutionary War. More than 1.2 million served in World War II, and 104,000 were among the forces that liberated Kuwait during the 1991 Gulf War. Surely, the black men and women who have defended our country deserve the respect and fair treatment of a grateful nation.

Eddie N. Williams is the president of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy organization in Washington, D.C.

'Mule Train' commemorates the turbulent Civil Rights Movement

"In Marks, Mississippi, I well remember; we visited a daycare center: and Dr. King was moved to tears there. There was an apple, and they took this apple and cut it into four pieces for four hungry waiting students. And when Dr. King saw that, and that is all that they had for lunch, he actually ended up crying. The tears came streaming down his cheek. And he had to leave the room."

—Reverend Ralph Abernathy

NASHVILLE, TENN.—In May of 1968, in an effort to continue the work begun by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., hundreds of people began the Poor People's Campaign and marched on Washington. As part of this historic endeavor, a march was organized beginning in Marks, Mississippi, called the Mule Train. A young photographer named Roland Freeman was sent to Mississippi to cover the progress of the Mule Train. Now, in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the journey, Roland Freeman has written The Mule Train: A Journey of Hope Remembered (Rutledge Hill Press).

The Mule Train: A Journey of Hope Remembered is a celebration of the spirit of the people who crusaded for freedom in the South during the Civil Rights era. Through spectacular pictures and a unique and personal narrative, Roland Freeman tells the stories of the courageous men, women, and children involved in the struggle for freedom. Freeman captures through his breathtaking pho-

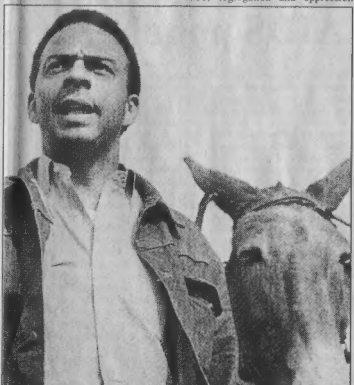


The Mule Train passing the hotel owned by African American businessman A.G. Gaston.

tographs the intensity of feeling shared among the participants of the Mule Train journey. The Mule Train passed through the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Three states where, in 1968, segregation and oppression

were still a way of life. This journey of hope was intended to bring about serious changes for the poor and underrepresented in the country. With the help and leadership of the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) people who had long gone unnoticed were able to voice their opinions and to come together as a group to compel the lawmakers in Washington to listen to their plight. Willie Gordon, wagonmaster of the Mule Train says in his interview with Mr. Freeman: "I think the Poor People's Campaign played a significant role in helping to shape some of the policies that relate to housing and jobs...we already had the rights granted by the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act, so the Poor People's Campaign was, in my opinion, geared toward housing, jobs, and the distribution of wealth." Roland Freeman's photographs allow us to revisit the past and to learn that the future is in our own hands. As Mr. Freeman says, "The work of the Mule Train...is still unfinished thirty years later. We must rethink the passion for change and our conscience to deal with poverty." Looking into the eyes of the children that Mr. Freeman photographed, we must remember that they are the adults of today and must ask ourselves if our promises to them have been fulfilled.

Reverend Andrew Young, then a senior member of the SCLC staff, was one of the organizers of the Mule Train.



Health Calendar

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

WESTFIELD—The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County will hold a three-day workshop on Sexual Abuse, A.D.P.M. and Recovery, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for further information and registration, 908-233-8810.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

PLAINFIELD—A blood drive sponsored by the Greater Plainfield Area Chapter of the American Red Cross will take place at the First United Church, 724 Park Avenue, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Call 908-756-6414.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

NORTH PLAINFIELD—A blood drive sponsored by the Greater Plainfield Area Chapter of the American Red Cross will take place at St. Joseph's Church, 41 Manning Avenue, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 908-756-6414.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

ELIZABETH—Elizabeth General Medical Center offers "Heart to Heart," a free support group for people with cardiac disease. Call 908-629-8540.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

WESTFIELD—The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County will hold a three-day workshop on Dimensions of Recovery, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for further information and registration, 908-233-8810.

Healthcare for older African Americans in the 21st century

By Jeanette Takamura

Thanks to the breakthroughs in science, medicine and technology, combined with healthier lifestyles, better working conditions, improved quality of care, and the Social Security Medicare and Older Americans Act programs, we are experiencing unprecedented longevity of life in America. The projections of older Americans in the future force us to design policies for a population that will be greater than ever.

America is a nation blessed with the gift of longevity. The statistics speak for themselves: "Approximately 46 million Americans are age 60 and over, with persons 100 years of age and older the fastest growing population segment in our country."

By the year 2030, the size of the population age 85 and over is projected to reach 8.5 million.

"One of every nine baby boomers will survive to at least 90 years of age. No less than 13 years, the vast majority of the nation's 77 million baby boomers, born between 1946 and 1964, will begin to join the ranks of our older Americans."

The older population of the 21st century will not only be much larger in terms of numbers, it will be far more diverse, especially in terms of ethnicity, culture, and rural versus urban dwellers. For example, minority populations experience significantly higher health disparities are projected to represent 22 percent of the elderly population in 2020, up from 15 percent in 1990. As America's minority elderly community experiences tremendous growth, it will become even more

important to remove cultural, ethnic, racial, socioeconomic and language



barriers that reduce access to health, home and community-based and elder-care services that are so important to all older Americans.

In 1996, African Americans represented 7.9 percent of persons 65 and over. For many of them, elderly victims and their families, one of the biggest

challenges to the graying of America will be identifying workable eldercare

options for the future. Studies have shown that African-American families tend to place greater emphasis on their elders at home rather than placing them in nursing homes if they become frail or disabled.

Right now the charge of policy makers, community leaders, health care professionals and families that work closely with the government is to explore and develop options now that will enable African-American

elders to remain in familiar settings within their families and communities as long as possible. These options must address the needs of both seniors and their families, who are often stressed while caring for their elders.

From elder care to Medicare to addressing special health risks, the

needs of older Americans and their families have been on the radar screen of the Clinton Administration from the very beginning. There have been a great many improvements in the provision of health care for seniors because we have made seniors a priority.

For example, to help seniors make informed decisions about managed care plans, our department has issued marketing guidelines for navigating today's managed care environment. In a determined focus on fighting health care fraud, we are utilizing seniors as our eyes and ears—resulting in record recoveries and prosecutions for fraud, and tightened standards for Medicare and Medicaid health care providers.

To expand home and community-based long term care, we have established the National Long Term Care Mentoring Program, which provides assistance to states in developing more extensive programs in home and community-based care. Seniors in need of vital information about the Medicare program can at a time convenient to them, access materials on the World Wide Web, www.medicare.gov.

Earlier this year, President Clinton, along with U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala and Surgeon General David Satcher, helped strengthen our attack on health problems that take a heavier toll on racial and ethnic minority populations, especially older Americans.

Minority populations at a whole suffer from certain diseases at a higher rate than white Americans. Older African-Americans have a higher death rate, in general, than older whites from the leading causes of death among older Americans: heart disease, cancer and stroke. Through the Initiative to

Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health, the

Administration is pledging to eliminate the gaps in six health status areas between racial and ethnic minorities and white Americans by 2010. Several of the key areas of the racial health disparities initiative impact racial and ethnic elders heavily, among them diabetes, cancer, stroke, cardiovascular disease and influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations.

Here are some things for African-American seniors and their families to consider for their longevity and good health into the 21st century:

"Become an informed consumer, taking advantage of the myriad of information that is becoming available to older persons and their families about health and long term care;

"Find a health care provider with whom you feel comfortable;

"Educate yourself and your family members about the importance of sound nutritional habits and healthy lifestyles as preventive measures;

"And accept the President's challenge to become actively involved in our own communities to help develop the strategies to provide the preventive care we all need.

Our goal is to make longevity and quality of life a gift for all Americans regardless of race and ethnicity. We must work together to eliminate health disparities among older Americans and adapt our programs and policies to the changing population of today and tomorrow.

Mrs. Takamura is the Assistant Secretary for Aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

Battling the rest-stop blues: Meatless options on the menu

WASHINGTON—"Burgers and fries or burritos?" you loved one like as you exit the turnpike for a quick lunch before continuing your 300-mile journey. But heavy, greasy food is the last thing you want sitting in your stomach as you ride in the car for the next five hours. No need to worry—there are many healthy options to choose from before you're limited to car-ride-casualty.

Fast food restaurants are beginning to offer some lighter, healthier fare, and packing some nutritious food in your car can help chase away your rest-stop food blues altogether. Not only will you feel better once you arrive at

your destination, the American Institute for Cancer Research says that choosing more low-calorie, plant-based foods can help reduce your risk of cancer and other serious diseases.

There's little doubt that, while traveling, fast food restaurants offer the quickest, most convenient meals for your money. But that doesn't mean you have to order extra large versions of everything with cheese. For a low-fat breakfast on the road, order a fat-free muffin or pancake instead of high fat toast, eggs and cheese sandwiches. Fresh tossed salads are available at most drive-thru's—just remember to

request low-fat dressing. Another good choice is a grilled chicken sandwich, minus the mayo. If you want to add more flavor to your sandwich without adding excess fat, ask for a packet of honey mustard or barbecue sauce, and add lots of lettuce, tomatoes and other veggies if they're available. As you ponder your snack selection at the rest-stop vending machine, ignore the candy bars and corn chips and choose, apple-popped popcorn or baked potato chips.

If you decide to bring food from home, sandwiches are an easy choice. Use whole grain bread for added nutri-

tion, lean meat (if any) such as turkey breast, and a variety of fresh vegetables like tomatoes, green peppers, onions or chopped carrots. For something different, try a bean spread sandwich filling, or wrap your sandwich fillings in tortillas instead of traditional sandwich bread. Keep them cold with frozen juice boxes.

For a free brochure with more tips on healthy eating when dining out, send a self-addressed, stamped (55 cents), business-sized envelope to: American Institute for Cancer Research, Dept. CD, P.O. Box 97167, Washington, DC, 20000-7167.

Whitten, 52, is watching her weight and her overall health and thinks eating more meatless meals is a way to stay fit. "I know meat has a lot of calories and fat, so I'm trying to limit it," Whitten said. "I probably won't eliminate it altogether—my husband wouldn't let me—but I'm going to eat less meat."

Now, when the Marietta couple order pizza, she makes her half veggie. And Whitten is eating more beans and salads and sneaking ground turkey into the chili instead of using ground beef.

Whitten is like a growing number of Americans who don't want to swear off indulging on a steak occasionally, but they are trying to work more meatless meals into their daily diets.

"It's definitely a trend. I'm seeing more and more clients who are cutting back on meat," said Page Love Johnson, a nutritionist with Nutrition Solutions Inc. in Atlanta.

Falls vary on how many Americans consider themselves strict vegetarians, meaning they eat no meat, fish or fowl. A Roper poll sponsored by the Vegetarian Resource Group last year showed only one percent of Americans say they fit that description. But 46 percent said they were trying to reduce their red meat consumption, and 24 percent said they were eating more meatless meals than the year before.

There are other signs that veget-

tarian options are in demand. Many articles, including *Diet*, report that vegetarian meals are the No. 1 special request at more food service locations. For instance, veggie hot dogs were sold in 42 percent of the stores, compared with only nine percent one year ago.

College and school cafeterias are offering more vegetarian meals, and so are restaurants. Ciboulette, an upscale restaurant in the Ansley Park area, has offered special five-course vegetarian meals. And vegetarian restaurants, such as Cafe Sunflower, say business is brisk.

Of course, steakhouses are hot, too. Diet books tout "eat-all-the-meat-you-want" high protein diets as top sellers. And despite the barrage of warning on the health effects of diets rich in red meats, the average U.S. consumption of beef has held steady the past three years at about 64 pounds per person.

So it's not that we are letting go, but rather seeking a balance, nutritionists say. "I've cut meat out of breakfast and lunch, but still include some kind during dinner," said Darlene Coulter, 28, a client, of Page Johnson's.

"But I live eating veggie burgers and trying out all the veggie burgers and Cafe Sunflower is one of my favorite restaurants."

Despite persistent myths about the poor health of vegetarians, vegetarian diets can be very healthy. Recently after several years of study, the American Dietetic Association adopted a position papers favoring vegetarian diets as a sound alternative.

Help for mental illnesses are available

By Larry Lucas

When I was growing up, nobody mentioned mental illness—it was a source of fear and shame.

Today, thanks in part to new medications, most people with mental illnesses can be successfully treated.

There are more than 65 approved medications for various types of mental illness, including depression, Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia and many others. And a new survey found 85 additional medicines in development. The medicines in development include 23 for dementia such as Alzheimer's, which affects four million Americans and is projected to become more widespread as the population ages; 19 for substance use disorders, including smoking cessation and alcohol dependence; 18 for depression, which affects 17 million Americans; 13 for schizophrenia, a disease that confines about 100,000 patients to mental hospitals; and 16 for anxiety disorders, which affects some 25 million Americans.

All of these medicines are either in human clinical trials or awaiting approval by the Food and Drug Administration. For years, people suffering from mental disorders, along with their families, were blamed and stigmatized for their illness. Now scientists believe that people suffering from mental illnesses may have imbalances in the way their brains metabolize chemicals called neurotransmitters. Too much or too little of these chemicals may result in depression, anxiety or other disorders. This knowledge has allowed pharmaceutical companies to develop medicines that can help the way in which the brain produces, stores and releases neurotransmitter chemicals, thereby alleviating the symptoms of some mental illnesses.

Depression is one of the most prevalent mental illnesses. Yet only one depressed person in ten receives adequate medical treatment, and one-third of people with major

depression seek no treatment. That's a real shame because there are several highly effective medicines available to treat depression. The symptoms of depression include:

"Persistent sad, anxious or 'empty' feelings and periods of crying."

"Loss of interest in things that were once enjoyable."

"Decreased energy, fatigue."

"Insomnia, early-morning waking with the inability to get back to sleep, or oversleeping."

"Changes in appetite and weight."

"Decreased ability to concentrate, remember or make decisions."

"Feelings of guilt or hopelessness or thoughts of suicide."

If you or someone you love has one or more of these symptoms, get help. Discuss the problem with your physician. You will prescribe appropriate treatment. Medicines are available to treat depression and other mental disorders, and pharmaceutical research means that new medicines will be available in the

future. For more information, please visit PHRMA's website www.PHRMA.org and click on New Medicines in Development.

Larry Lucas is Associate Vice President of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PHRMA).

PHRMA.org and click on New Medicines in Development.

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Out-of-wedlock black births reduced while black African population is growing

By Emory Curtis

Special to the NNPA

Statistically, the past few weeks have brought us good news and bad. First the bad, African Americans are one eighth of the U.S. population and over one half of new HIV infections spread as the population ages; 19 for substance use disorders, including smoking cessation and alcohol dependence; 18 for depression, which affects 17 million Americans; 13 for schizophrenia, a disease that confines about 100,000 patients to mental hospitals; and 16 for anxiety disorders, which affects some 25 million Americans.

The fact that one half of all new HIV infections are black is waking up our leaders and they are beginning to answer. The heads of our organizations and churches are beginning to speak about the life practices that can lead to HIV infections and trying to help reduce them with HIV or AIDS.

For much too long after AIDS first struck among the homosexual community, the general feeling was that HIV was a disease that was a gay disease. And since homosexuals were already persons not grata with us, our leaders essentially turned their backs on the AIDS prob-

lem. A lot of the focus now is on HIV being transmitted through the use of dirty needles by drug users. Again, that group evokes little sympathy with most.

However, that short-sighted view of HIV and its problems should never have seen the light of day. In 1981, before AIDS was a problem in this country, it was devastating central Africa.

And the African people infected with HIV were heterosexual non-drug users, not dispersed homosexuals or drug users. AIDS was spreading in Africa through heterosexual contact.

It is believed that Ugandan truck drivers who patronized prostitutes on their long northern trips were the major carriers of HIV. They picked it up along the way and brought it back to Uganda where it quickly spread among the urban Ugandan middle class.

The heterosexual transmission of HIV to 15 to 49 are infected with HIV or suffering from AIDS. More women of child bearing age are infected with HIV in Africa than anywhere else. In East Africa, 40 percent of the children 15 years of age or less have lost their mother or both parents to AIDS.

The heterosexual transmission of HIV is more devastating than HIV transmitted homosexually. In the heterosexual case, beside the partner getting infected, the mother can transmit HIV to children, especially if they are breast-fed.

Within our community we need a lot more awareness about the problems that AIDS brings to the individual and how that they radiate through the community. That awareness will make all of us much more receptive to messages about the kinds of risky behavior to avoid. After all those messages reduced the rate of new HIV infections in the homosexual community.

As messages about HIV and AIDS filter through our community they will also have a damper effect on

out-of-wedlock births. The fear of AIDS will reduce bed hopping. There will be a tendency to stick with a safe partner and not take a chance on that "just one more time." There are also other positive impacts.

For one, setting down with one partner will occur at an early age and, because of the fear of HIV they will tend to stay together over the normal bumps in the road that most run into.

Also, since they have found a safe haven, they are likely to marry.

EDWARD A. ALDER, MD, MPH.

Board Certified in Internal Medicine

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

EAST ORANGE — "Jazz at the Plaza" features David Cedeno, Norman Headman and Tropique at City Hall Plaza. Showtime is 6:30 pm. For information, call 973-764-3765.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

BLOOMFIELD — The Essex County Park System summer concert series features The Marvelles and The Platters in Brookdale Park at 7:30 pm. For more information, call 973-268-3500.

PLAINFIELD — The works of stolen award-winning young artists from the du cist School of the Arts will be on view at the Swin Galleries through August 15. For more information, call 908-756-1707.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

IRVINGTON — The Association for Community Empowerment is hosting auditions for a youth fest talent show. Auditions will be held Saturday, August 8, from 2-4 pm. For information on audition times for specific age groups, call 973-399-1000.

NEW YORK — The Lincoln Center "Out-of-Door" series presents Reginald Yates Banaba African Dance, Thunderbird Indian Dancers and more in the South Plaza at 2:00. For more information, call 212-875-5108.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

HOBOKEN — The "Movies Under the Stars" series presents "The Meaning of Life" at the Eric Laskawanna Plaza. Movie is free to the public and begins at 8:00 pm. For more information, call 201-426-2207.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

BROOKLYN — A free outdoor concert featuring The Dramatics. The event at MetroTech Commons at MetroTech Center. Showtime is from noon to 2 pm. For more information, call 718-636-4111.

NEWARK — The Jazz in Bloom concert series at the Newark Museum presents trumpeter Valery Ponomarev. Showtime is 12:15 pm. For more information, call 973-596-6550.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

NEW YORK — Saxophonist Myron Walton performs at the Studio Museum in Harlem. Admission is free. For more information, call 212-984-4500.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

NEWARK — The Priory presents filmmaker Mariyolu Tibado-Bongiorno. For more info, call 973-643-1625.

Discovery dispels myths about sharks



Discovery's Shark Week begins August 9.

NEW YORK — For hundreds of millions of years, sharks have dominated the earth's waters with an ability to survive that is unrivaled by almost any other creature. Sleek as bullets, sharks are the ocean's top predators—creatures that inspire awe and reverence, and sometimes our own fears, about what may lurk beneath the waterline. "Shark Week," Discovery Channel's longest-running and most-anticipated programming event, aims to dispel myths about sharks by presenting a well-rounded look at sharks' diverse behavior and characteristics.

"Shark Week" swims into living rooms this summer from Sunday, August 9 to Sunday, August 16 with an all-new schedule featuring five premiere programs—more than ever before. See enclosed schedule for premiere dates and times. Kicking off this year's "Shark Week" on August 9 is *Prehistoric Sharks*, an original world premiere program that showcases the most bizarre, exotic, unusual sharks ever to swim the earth's waters. Dating back more than 400 million years, prehistoric sharks came in nearly every shape, design and color.

Royal title suits Queen Latifah just fine



Queen Latifah

by Mary Campbell
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Queen Latifah started rapping when she was 17. Not immediately, "All Hail The Queen" was the title of her debut album, released in 1989. Her mother thought her stage name was pretentious and said, "Give me a break." But Latifah, now 28, insists, "I stuck to my guns and it proved to be good."

The Grammy-winning rapper, who was born Dana Owens, resides in New Jersey. She says she picked up the name from a book of Muslim names when she was 8. Her newest project, "Order in the Court," is a CD on her own label, Flavor Unit, distributed by Motown. She prefers the melodic cuts to the ones where phrases are delivered rapidly.

Although "Order in the Court" isn't a "message-y" album — it's about making individual music, music that's a little different from everyone else out there — several tracks do have a message.

She says "What You Gonna Do" is a song that means "at the end of the day, no matter what goes on... all you have to do is pray on it. Find the light

of God inside of you, because it is there."

"I am Christian," says Latifah, who describes herself as more spiritual than religious. "I don't go to church every Sunday. I do pray on a daily basis. I have cool conversations with God and my ancestors who are up in heaven."

"From the Heart of a Queen" is a book she's writing about self-esteem and self-respect. While not an autobiography, the book will draw on her experiences growing up in East Orange, New Jersey.

For her role as a deep-sea diver in the film "Sphere," Latifah had to learn how to scuba. "My agent told them I could scuba. He had to get the gig," she says. "I knew I would pick it up pretty quickly. When I was 10, I was on a swim team in Newark for a little while."

For her role as a lounge singer in the upcoming film, "Living On Love," Latifah sings jazz. Singing jazz professionally for the first time, Latifah says, "took a little rehearsal. I enjoyed it." Future plans include a movie about Bessie Smith. "I'll have a lot of fun dancing and singing," she says.

Newark hosts cultural festival and parade

NEWARK — The United Caribbean African Alliance will sponsor the First Annual Caribbean African Cultural Festival & Parade on Saturday, August 8, 1998, from 9 am to 8 pm. The theme for this year's Carnival is "Rhythm of the People: expression of cultures."

Carnival is a universe in motion where high-spirited masquerades, fueled by syncretized rhythm of the African Diaspora, perform visionary and dramatic rituals of songs and dances. The festival and parade will feature a colorful mix of people and their cultures. Among the nations expected participants are Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, South Africa, Senegal, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago and many more.

The Parade begins at 12 noon proceeding down Broad Street past Military Park. The festival starts at 1pm at Military Park on Park Place. Activities include a marketplace, food court, bandstand and much more.

Scoop Du Jour



Angela Bassett

When is Hollywood going to release a film that realistically depicts a healthy male/female relationship, one in which the female character is significantly older than her male co-star? Now!

Twentieth Century Fox, after scoring high marks with "Waiting To Exhale," is now beaming over the impending success of its latest cinematic jewel, "How Stella Got Her Groove Back." Perfectly playing the role of Stella is Angela Bassett. Whoopi Goldberg (who will share never before printed information on her new love interest in next week's column) plays her best friend Delilah. Tye Digg's Regina King, Suzanne Douglas and Michael J. Pagan round out the cast.

The film, based on the best-selling novelist Terry McMillan's book of the same name, is set on the picturesque beaches of Jamaica and in the San Francisco. In this *Crry News* exclusive, readers can find out why this actress deserves her props.

City News: Would you have an affair with a twenty-year-old man?

Angela Bassett: Would I? Yes I would... if I were single (Bassett is

married to actor Courtney Vance) and if he was mature, sincere and genuine. **CN:** The chemistry between yourself and Tye came across wonderfully. What was it like working with a newcomer?

Bassett: Tye is a wonderful actor and on top of that, he's a wonderful human being. And when you see him on screen, he's gorgeous and that doesn't hurt.

CN: What would be the ultimate role for you?

Bassett: Oh, I don't know. Maybe Cleopatra.

CN: Kevin Sullivan (the film's director) mentioned the many hours spent doing improvisations. How did those rehearsals strengthen your love scenes with Tye?

Bassett: All of what you see, we brought that to it. One played off the other and the chemistry was just there. It wasn't rehearsed at all.

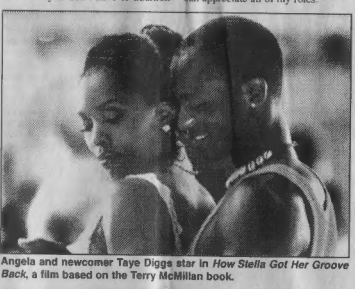
CN: At this point in your career, we know you don't have to audition

for a role. So tell us how this masterpiece landed in your lap.

Bassett: Terry and I talked about it during the filming of *Waiting To Exhale* and she was still writing the book. I think, early on in the process she wanted me to play Stella and based on the success of "Exhale," I agreed.

CN: Of all the roles that you've played, which one is most like yourself?

Bassett: I think all of them are, but to pick one, I'd say Stella. I guess. With Tina Turner, she and I are both southern girls and we both work hard but I wasn't abused. Betty Shabazz and I both shared a passion and a conviction for our nation's youth and their education. She was a God-fearing woman as I am. Katherine Jackson was loved and respected by her children as I hope to be one day. Stella is a sound individual and she cares a lot about the people around her. I can appreciate all of my roles.



Angela and newcomer Tye Digg's star in *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, a film based on the Terry McMillan book.

Mary J Blige: queen of Hip-hop Soul releases 'The Tour'



The Tour is Mary J. Blige's first live album. It is a compilation of songs recorded during her "Share My World" tour in '97 and '98.

UNIVERSAL CITY, CA — Hailed as much for her electrifying live performances as for her studio recordings, MCA superstar Mary J.

was recorded at various venues along the route of Mary's sold out 1997-1998 "Share My World" Tour.

Included on The Tour are songs from each of Mary's previous multi-platinum albums, *What's The 411?*, *My Life*, and her breakthrough 1997 international smash *Share My World*. Also included are a pair of R&B classics, Aretha Franklin's "Daydreaming" and Dorothy Moore's "Misty Blue" — a life-long R&B staple. Mary customarily includes one or two favorite classic songs on each of her albums. Other tracks included on The Tour are: Mary's #1 1992 hit "Real Love," as well as songs like "You Remind Me," "Reminisce," "Sweet Thing," "Mary Jane," "Love No Limit," "Summer Madness," "My Life," "Share My World," "I'm Going Down," "Thank You Lord," "I Can Love You," "Keep Your Head," "Everything," "Seven Days," "Not Got Cry," and "Missing You."

The album comes on the heels of an extraordinary year for Blige. Not only did Mary reach unprecedented multi-platinum success with *Share My World*, she also won the 1998 American Music Award for Favorite Soul/R&B Album and was nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best R&B Album.

Make-up artist reveals the basics of beauty



NEWARK — The Krueger-Scott Mansion Cultural Center in Newark recently hosted make-up artist Sam Fine as part of its Black Book series. Held at the Newark Public Library, Fine greeted attendees and signed copies of his book *Beauty Basics and Beyond for African American Women* (Riverhead Books).

Mr. Fine, who has done the faces of Vanessa Williams, Chaka Khan, RuPaul, Brandy, Gladys Knight, Tyra Banks and Patti LaBelle, discussed his beauty secrets for women of color and gave a demonstration of his technique on model Lene. In his book, Fine tells how he got into the beauty industry and offers advice to those who want to enter the glamorous profession.

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APARTMENTS AND PUBLIC NOTICE

SENIOR PUBLIC HOUSING APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED
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WEDNESDAY ONLY
\$14.30

FAMILY COURT FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE

NOTICE OF FAMILY COURT ACTION
PETITIONER: *Guillermo Rivera*
RESPONDENT: *Sandra Gonzalez*
A Dependency/Neglect Petition for Custody of David Gonzalez, son of Sandra Gonzalez and Tony Crown, born in Newark City, Essex County, New Jersey, on October 22, 1965, has been filed in Family Court, New Castle County, State of Delaware, 900 King Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.
If you do not file an answer with the Family Court within 20 days after publication of this notice, exclusive of the date of publication, as required by statute, this action will be heard in Family Court without further notice.
\$40.30

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR DEFENSIVE CIVIL LITIGATION

The Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park (AHAP) is soliciting proposals from Attorneys and law firms experienced in Defensive Civil Litigation. Of Lead-Seed Panel Lawyers to represent it in connection with a lawsuit brought against it.
The AHAP is a public agency organized and operating pursuant to the New Jersey State Redevelopment and Housing Law (NJSA 14B:12-1 et seq.). The AHAP also has a contractual relationship with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development from which the AHAP receives most of its funding.
The AHAP owns and operates 587 units of low income public housing in seven locations throughout the City of Asbury Park. The AHAP also operates a housing assistance program which subsidizes the rents of 217 families in privately-owned dwellings throughout the city.

The AHAP is run by a seven-member Board of Commissioners. The day-to-day operation of the AHAP is delegated to an Executive Director. The successful Attorney/firm will be responsible for the following duties:

- Participate in strategy sessions with the AHAP and the AHAP's law attorney
- Negotiation with the plaintiff's Attorney in regard to pre-trial settlement
- Representation of the AHAP at trial
- Communication with the AHAP and its Attorney
- Preparation and review of all legal documents, correspondence, filing with the Court, etc.
- Providing advice to the AHAP until the matter is resolved
- Further information about the substance and background of the lawsuit can be obtained by calling the AHAP Attorney, Mr. James Macdonald at 732-775-4700.

Should you or your firm be interested in the assignment, please correspond with the AHAP at the address above or alternate: Claudia Sweeney, Executive Director, not later than Aug. 6, 1998. Please provide the following in your response:

1. Your or the firm's resume showing the names, experience and educational backgrounds of the principals and partners.
2. An identification of the staff who will be representing the AHAP on the assignment and the experience and educational background of each.
3. A recitation of your or the firm's experience in lawsuits of this nature. Client references should also be cited here.

If further information regarding this request for proposal is needed, please call the Executive Director, Claudia Sweeney, at the AHAP, at 732-775-2650 extension 844.

Claudia Sweeney
Executive Director

#1 AFRICAN-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER CITY NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
71 NELSON STREET, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY 08901 (732) 745-5147 FAX (732) 214-8005
Job Posting
Social Service Director

Advertised Date: July 23, 1998

The New Brunswick Housing and Urban Development Authority is seeking to hire a Social Service Director, to implement and operate all social service programs (including a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program) through its Public Housing facilities. All Applicants must have a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Case Management, Counseling, Sociology, or a related field, and must have computer knowledge, staff and program management experience (3 - 5 years) and specific experience with case management of low-income (rental Public Housing) families (Salary: \$50,000-60,000). Please send copies of your resume to Ms. Maria Martinez, Personnel Officer, The New Brunswick Housing Authority, 71 Nelson Street, The New Brunswick Housing Authority, 71 Nelson Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Applicants must apply by August 12, 1998, to be considered for this position.

The New Brunswick Housing Authority does not discriminate against applicants for age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, veteran or marital status, sex, sexual orientation or on the basis of disability.

TECHNICAL PURCHASING ASSISTANT/CLERK TYPIST
Minimum of one year experience in purchasing. Computer literate. Send resume by 8/14/98.
Pleasant Housing Authority
333 Pleasant St., Pleasant, NJ 07065
Ann: Sandra Ortiz
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